HEPATITIS B, ACUTE

Acute Hepatitis B is an illness with insidious onset of symptoms including anorexia, vague abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting, sometimes arthralgias and rash, often progressing to jaundice. The hepatitis B virus (HBV) is transmitted from person to person primarily through exposure to blood or other body fluids of infected persons. Infection can occur through sexual contact, injecting drug use, occupational exposure in healthcare settings, perinatal exposure, and household contact with a carrier. Only a small proportion of infections are clinically recognized. Five to ten percent of infected adults and ninety percent of infected infants develop chronic infections. These individuals have a significantly higher risk of developing some form of serious liver disease in the future.

Laboratory Criteria for Confirmation:

?? IgM antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (anti-HBc) positive (if done) or a positive test for hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg).
?? IgM anti-HAV negative (if done).

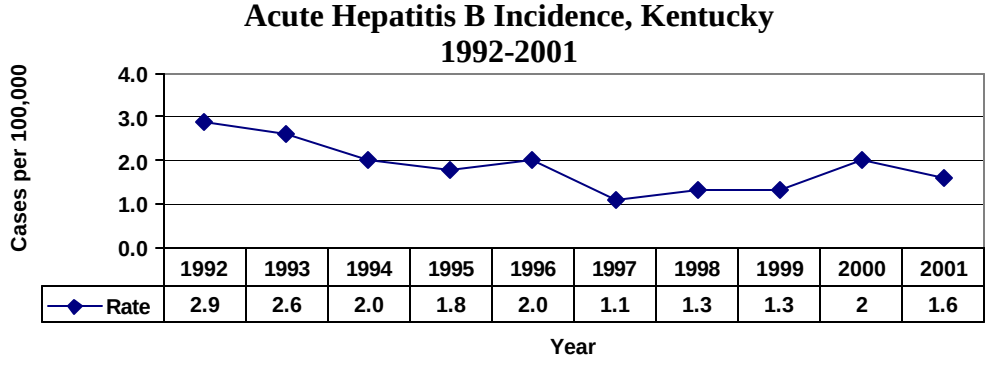
Case Classification

Confirmed: A case that meets the clinical case definition and is laboratory confirmed.

For Perinatal Hepatitis B: HbsAg positivity in any infant aged >1-24 months who was born in the United States or in U.S. territories to an HbsAg-positive mother.

Comment

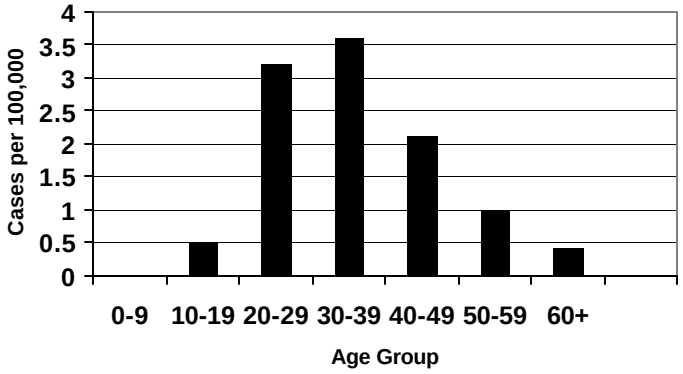
Persons who have chronic hepatitis or persons identified as HbsAg positive or anti-HCV positive should not be reported as having acute viral hepatitis unless they have evidence of an acute illness compatible with viral hepatitis (with the exception of perinatal hepatitis B infection).



Epidemiology

Kentucky 2001		Rate per 100,000	U. S. Rate (2000) per 100,000
Cases	64	1.6	2.95
Cases by Gender			
Female	27	1.3	
Male	37	1.9	

Acute Hepatitis B Age-Specific Incidence, Kentucky 2001



The 30-39 year age group reported the highest incidence, 3.6 per 100,000, followed by the 20-29 year age group with 3.2 cases per 100,000.

Acute Hepatitis B by District
Kentucky 2001

The Kentucky River District reported the highest incidence with 5.0 cases per 100,000.